educational service center
of Central Ohio

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ESC of Central Ohio

The Educational Service Center of Central Ohio (ESCCO) treats student well-being as the core value guiding every decision and action. As a charter school authorizer, the ESCCO aims to improve each school's quality by holding it accountable for performance and relying on objective, verifiable measures of student achievement to confirm success.

The Community School Department's mission is to monitor each sponsored community school through quality sponsorship that benefits its students. Although sponsorship is a small part of the ESC's portfolio, the department is committed to best practices that give parents effective school choice options, as supported by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA). Its goals are:

- Education: Monitor and assess the goals in the sponsorship agreement's Education Plan, aligning them with the Assessment and Accountability Plan.
- Governance: Monitor governance compliance and offer support.
- Finance: Monitor fiscal viability and sustainability, give feedback, and intervene when needed.
- Accountability: Monitor and evaluate legal compliance and adherence to the terms of the contract.
- Technical Assistance: Provide support across all aspects of successful school programming.

The ESCCO expects clarity, consistency, and transparency as both the authorizer and each school governing board carry out their contractual responsibilities. It also insists that the contract clearly states each party's rights, responsibilities, and autonomy, as well as expected outcomes and gains and the measures of success or failure.

Through contract oversight, the ESCCO evaluates performance, monitors legal and contractual compliance, protects student rights, ensures autonomy, and informs intervention and renewal decisions. It is committed to a transparent, rigorous performance accountability system that draws on data from the full charter term to support fair renewal decisions.

Noteworthy practices include:

- Operational Monitoring: The ESC holds fall and winter academic meetings with each school, in addition to fall and spring site visits. At the academic meetings, schools present an academic overview that addresses specific points on a sponsor-provided rubric. The school and sponsor then discuss performance in detail, including strengths, areas for improvement, and how to achieve that improvement. Others who work with the schools, such as State Support Team consultants, are invited so that all goals and initiatives are aligned and mutually supportive. The academic meetings allow for fall and spring site

visits to be streamlined, and ample time provided for all areas required for sponsor and school compliance.

The ESC also uses Epicenter, an online compliance system that stores all compliance-related documents and is the same system ODEW uses. Each week we schedule requirements that schools must meet to stay compliant, which keeps us in regular communication with them throughout the year.

- Technical Assistance: Each year, the ESC holds a Leadership Retreat for school and board leaders. Our attorney and coordinators deliver required trainings. Shaped by survey results and upcoming school requirements, the two-day event gives attendees the chance to talk with peers from other schools and to hear legal, legislative, academic, special education, and fiscal updates. Presenters include ESC staff, legal counsel, and legislative experts.

  Coordinators also host bi-weekly Zoom sessions for all school leaders, sharing key updates and guest speakers on topics schools need to know about and topics leaders have requested. In addition, the ESC leads a dropout prevention and recovery (DOPR) network with other ESC's to support the special needs of these schools. Based on school surveys, opportunities are offered both in person and online.

- Financial Monitoring and Support: Beyond monthly fiscal reviews and attendance at board meetings, the sponsor offers extra opportunities with our fiscal experts to address concerns or areas needing improvement. These experts have also presented at Zoom sessions and the Leadership Retreat.

For more information, please contact the ESCCO Coordinators of Community Schools:

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ESCCO Community School Webpage – Linked Here

ESC Department of Community Schools Guidance Document – Linked Here - *descriptions of our oversight and evaluation systems that include processes, and policies.*

2025-2026 ESCCO Sponsored Community Schools

The ESCCO sponsored eight (6) schools during the 2025-20256 school year. They were:

Early College Academy	(IRN – 000912)
Graham Elementary and Middle School	(IRN – 011972)
Oakstone Community School	(IRN – 000679)
The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University	(IRN – 007999)
The Graham School	(IRN – 133421)
The Maritime Academy of Toledo	(IRN – 000770)